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COOLEY GODWARD LLP
ATTN: PATENT GROUP
11951 FREEDOM DRIVE, SUITE 1700
ONE FREEDOM SQUARE- RESTON TOWN CENTER
RESTON VA 20190-5061

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:
Nieto Gil et al.	:
Application No. 10/617,538	: DECISION ON PETITIONS
Filed: July 11, 2003	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Attorney Docket No. FICO-002/00US	: AND UNDER 37 CFR 1.55(C)

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c), filed September 12, 2005, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) for the benefit of prior-filed PCT Application No. PCT/EP02/00596, filed January 22, 2002, and under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) for the benefit of prior-filed German Application No. 10102685.4, filed January 22, 2001, as set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3):

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). Also, the reference to the prior-filed applications was submitted during the pendency of the instant nonprovisional application, for which the claim for benefit of priority is sought. See 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c). Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed applications satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

As to the benefit claim under 37 CFR 1.55(c):

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;
- (2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same

- subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date;
- (3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);
 - (4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. (The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.); and
 - (5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

The intermediate PCT application was filed within 12 months of January 22, 2001, which is the earliest filing date of the foreign application to which benefit is claimed. The declaration filed on January 24, 2005, also identifies the foreign application for which priority is claimed.

A certified copy of the foreign patent document is included. Petitioner submitted the petition fee of \$1370.00. Lastly, petitioner has provided an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

All requirements being met, the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is granted.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, and the foreign priority claim, accompanies this decision on petition.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) and 37 CFR 1.55(c) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, 365(c) and 119(a)-(d) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3206.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 3683 for consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 365(c) to the prior-filed PCT application and for consideration of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 for the benefit of the foreign application as set forth in the concurrently filed amendment and declaration, respectively.



Liana Chase
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt